



Impact Statement

Ke'Ashja Sims, Grade 11

***The Lifeline of Blood*, 2026**

Drawing, prismacolor pencils on paper, 16 x 16 inches

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Unsung Hero: Dr. Charles Drew

Unsung Heroes are people who have made a difference in society because of their determination and hard work, and they are often not acknowledged for their contributions. One such hero is Dr. Charles Drew, an outstanding doctor and scientist who changed the medical world. Although he is most commonly known for his pioneering research on finding better ways to store and transport blood plasma, which played a critical role in saving many lives during WWII, as an African American physician who worked during a period characterized by strict segregation, he had to handle many difficulties, yet he still managed to contribute significantly to the field of science and medicine. He is seen as an important role model for his commitment, brilliance, and persistence in his field.

Dr. Charles Drew played an important role in medicine and society. He found a way to separate the liquid part of blood, known as plasma, and store it for much longer, which made it easier to transport and give to people in need. This discovery made it possible to create big blood banks, like the ones we have today. During the Second World War, these blood banks were used to save the lives of many soldiers. When the military decided to keep the blood of whites and blacks separate, Drew spoke out, or criticized the decision, because he knew that it was not based on scientific facts.

I drew my artwork using Prismacolor pencils. I love working with this medium because it makes my artwork very vibrant and bold. In my piece, I wanted to highlight the medical aspect and the urgent feeling of his work. The entire room was filled with blood because he developed many techniques involving drying it, freezing it, breaking it down so blood was his main tool and directly responsible for saving countless lives. Blood is also present in every corner of the room to show its life-saving power and symbolism and to create an intense look and feeling to the piece.

Discovering more about Dr. Charles Drew made an impact on how I see my education and future career. I learned that even when school or work gets tough, it is important to push through and work hard to achieve your goals. There will always be obstacles in life, but the important thing is to keep striving towards what you want to accomplish. Dr. Drew's determination should push all of us to not only strive for personal success but to also work to make the world a better place for everyone.

I intend to demonstrate that anyone can be an artist, regardless of their age. I hope to set an example for other kids who may want to create something to share with their community but are hesitant because they believe they are too young. Overall, I am excited to share my piece with others and hopeful that it will encourage more people to learn about Dr. Charles Drew. I will continuously inspire and provoke members of society to acknowledge and appreciate the works of Unsung Heroes who have made valuable contributions towards improving life as we know it.